



## For Your Information – January 2008

At the State Board of Health (SBOH), we believe information is essential. For several years we have been making SBOH and health-related information available through the distribution of our Board meeting agendas with an attached segment simply called, "FYI." To make this information more accessible we have created this Web page. This page will be updated on a regular basis and should be considered the go-to source for current information on correspondence to and from the Board, a selection of health publications, and health-related conferences.

- [Events and Conferences](#)
- [Local Boards of Health – Meetings and Agendas](#)
- [Public Health Leadership Positions Available](#)
- Publications
  - [General Media](#)
  - [Highlighted Journal Articles](#)
  - [Inside this Issue](#)

### Events and Conferences

#### December 2007

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
Dec. 11	<b>Washington Health Legislative Conference</b> <b>The Changing Face(s) of Health Care: New People, New Ideas</b> SeaTac Hilton Conference Center SeaTac, Washington For information: <a href="http://www.depts.washington.edu/rchpol">www.depts.washington.edu/rchpol</a>

#### March 2008

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
Mar. 20-21	<b>21st Northwest Regional Rural Health Conference</b> Spokane, Washington For information: <a href="http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/">http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/</a>

## April 2008

**Date**                      **Name and Location**  
Apr. 4                      **Institute of Medicine's Future of Public Health 20 Years Later ~ NALBOH's 9th Annual Lecture in Public Health**  
For information: <http://www.nalboh.org/lecture/lecture.htm>

## September 2008

**Date**                      **Name and Location**  
Sep. 9-12                      **ASTHO-NACCHO 2008 Joint Conference**  
Sacramento, CA  
For information: [http://www.naccho.org/conferences/NACCHOannual06/documents/NA\\_Conf\\_Guide\\_Back\\_Page.pdf](http://www.naccho.org/conferences/NACCHOannual06/documents/NA_Conf_Guide_Back_Page.pdf)

Sep. 28 - Oct. 1                      **ESRI Health GIS Conference: Shaping Global Health**  
Washington, DC  
For information: [www.esri.com/healthgis](http://www.esri.com/healthgis)

[Index](#)

## Public Health Leadership Positions Available

**Assistant Secretary, Division of Community and Family Health**  
Washington State Department of Health  
Closes: When Filled  
For information: [http://www.doh.wa.gov/job\\_ann/DOH516.doc](http://www.doh.wa.gov/job_ann/DOH516.doc)

**Director**  
American Indian Health Commission for Washington State  
Closes: When Filled  
For information: Christine at 360-681-4636 or [ckiehl@jamestowntribe.org](mailto:ckiehl@jamestowntribe.org)

**Director, Public Health Systems Planning and Development**  
Washington State Department of Health  
Closes: When Filled  
For information: [http://www.doh.wa.gov/job\\_ann/DOH516.doc](http://www.doh.wa.gov/job_ann/DOH516.doc)

**Environmental Health Specialist I/II**  
Chelan-Douglas Health District  
Closes: When Filled  
For information:  
<http://www.cdhd.wa.gov/docs/EHS%20I-II%20Position%20Recruitment.pdf>

## **Public Health Nurse II - First Steps Program**

Kittitas County Health Department

Closes: When Filled

For information:

<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/hr/jobs.asp?jobID=348>

## **Senior Analyst - Operational Definition and Exploring Accreditation**

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Closes: When Filled

For information:

<http://www.naccho.org/careers/headquarters/HQ45.cfm>

[Index](#)

## **Publications - General Media**

### **Diversity Tests Health Care in 3 Md. Counties**

*Washington Post, December 1, 2007*

The increasing diversity of three of Maryland's largest counties is exacerbating already serious health disparities within communities, according to a new report. Those disparities are not uniform across Montgomery, Prince George's and Frederick counties, despite the jurisdictions' similarities and parallel growth in their immigrant populations. Often, the differences seem inexplicable.

### **Hey, Waiter, What's This Dairy Item In My Dish?**

*Washington Post, December 30, 2007*

Starting New Year's Day, the toast at Bethesda's Tastee Diner will be buttered with something unusual: butter. With the first phase of Montgomery County's restaurant ban on trans fat going into effect Tuesday, the diner's Bethesda and Silver Spring branches will switch from the margarine that has been the norm for more than 35 years to genuine butter, owner Gene Wilkes said.

### **Hospitals putting bigger emphasis on hand hygiene**

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 7, 2007*

As she walks with her mother into the front lobby of Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, a 3-year-old girl reaches above her head to squeeze some hand sanitizer into her hand. The kiosk prominently placed in the middle of Giraffe entrance lobby is taller than she is, but almost instinctively, the toddler knows to slather the antibacterial sanitizer over her tiny hands. That behavior is what area hospitals hope to instill not only in patients, but in their staffs as well.

### **Joint Commission Report Calls on Hospitals to Enhance Language Services**

*RWJF, January 2, 2008*

In a preliminary report, the Joint Commission has called on hospitals to improve language services for patients with limited English proficiency (LEP), the Business Courier of Cincinnati reports. The report marks an update from the Joint Commission's ongoing "Hospitals, Language and Culture" project, which seeks to evaluate and improve cultural competency and language services in care delivery. In an analysis of 60 hospitals nationwide, Joint Commission researchers determined that linguistic and cultural support services vary widely among providers and that hospitals often lack the resources and processes necessary to optimize care for LEP patients. For example, although roughly 98 percent of

hospitals included in the study reported employing telephone-based interpreter services, more than half of respondents said they often relied on patients' family members or friends to interpret.

### **Learn how recycling can affect public health**

*The Olympian, December 8, 2007 (Diana Yu)*

Many of us try to recycle every thing possible and reuse as many disposable items as we can. Not using disposable containers is a bigger challenge, but every action counts. During the past 17 years, I have become more aware of the need to protect our health by protecting the environment. The connection between health problems and recycling might not be obvious. But when you think about it, reducing the amount of new products manufactured means we reduce air pollution from resource extraction and manufacturing. Wastes that are incinerated add to the air pollution that causes microscopic damage to our lungs, leading to chronic lung disease.

### **Massachusetts Awards \$1 Million to Combat Health Disparities**

*RWJF, November 29, 2007*

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick (D) on Wednesday announced \$1 million in grants for 42 clinics, hospitals and community groups working to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities throughout the state, the Boston Globe reports. The awards will fund initiatives to improve health care delivery, boost job training to diversify the health care workforce and increase resources for community programs targeting health disparities.

### **Monitoring, intervention strategies for 'superbug' sought**

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 7, 2007*

A panel of scientific and medical experts gathered Friday to figure out better monitoring and intervention strategies for all MRSA infections, but the meeting raised more questions than answers. Yet that was the point, said state health officer and co-chairwoman of the panel, Maxine Hayes. The goal of the SeaTac meeting was to present as much information known about MRSA as possible, then take the next step in developing a plan.

### **MRSA panel readies recommendations Task force on bacteria to report to Gregoire by Jan. 10**

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 21, 2007*

In its second and final meeting before a January deadline imposed by Gov. Chris Gregoire, a group of scientific and medical experts met Friday to hash out a beginning set of recommendations about how the state should monitor and prevent the antibiotic-resistant bacteria known as MRSA. In a letter last month to Health Secretary Mary Selecky, Gregoire told the state Health Department to increase efforts to track methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* -- MRSA -- and educate the public about ways to prevent it.

### **Racial Disparities Persist in ED-Based Opioid Prescribing, Study Reveals**

*RWJF, January 3, 2008*

A study in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association suggests that, despite emergency department (ED) physicians' increasing propensity to prescribe opioids for pain management, Caucasian patients are still more likely than minority patients to receive the treatments when presenting with a pain-related complaint, the Associated Press reports.

### **Study Finds Racial Gap In Painkiller Prescriptions**

*Associated Press, January 2, 2008*

CHICAGO -- Emergency room doctors are prescribing strong narcotics more often to patients who complain of pain, but minorities are less likely to get them than whites, a new study finds. Even for the severe pain of kidney stones, minorities were prescribed narcotics such as oxycodone and morphine less

frequently than whites. The analysis of more than 150,000 emergency room visits over 13 years found differences in prescribing by race in both urban and rural hospitals, in all U.S. regions and for every type of pain.

[Index](#)

## Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

### Journals Reviewed

#### **American Journal of Preventive Medicine**

<http://www.ajpm-online.net/>

- Vol. 34, No. 1, January 2008

#### **American Journal of Public Health**

<http://www.ajph.org/current.shtml>

- Vol. 98, No. 1, January 1, 2008

#### **Health Affairs**

<http://www.healthaffairs.org/>

#### **The Journal of the American Medical Association**

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/>

- Vol. 299, No. 1, January 2, 2008
- Vol. 298, No. 24, December 26, 2007
- Vol. 298, No. 23, December 19, 2007
- Vol. 298, No. 22, December 12, 2007

#### **The Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law**

<http://jhppl.dukejournals.org/archive/>

#### **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report**

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr\\_wk.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html)

- Vol. 56, Nos. 51 & 52, January 4, 2008
- Vol. 56, No. 50, December 21, 2007
- Vol. 56, No. 49, December 14, 2007

#### **The New England Journal of Medicine**

<http://content.nejm.org/current.shtml>

- Vol. 358, No. 1, January 3, 2008
- Vol. 357, No. 26, December 27, 2007
- Vol. 357, No. 25, December 20, 2007
- Vol. 357, No. 24, December 13, 2007

#### **Preventing Chronic Disease**

*CDC*

<http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/>

- Vol. 5, No. 1, January 2008

## Highlighted Journal Articles

### **A Participatory Action Research Pilot Study of Urban Health Disparities Using Rapid Assessment Response and Evaluation**

*American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 98, No. 1, January 1, 2008*

Healthy People 2010 made it a priority to eliminate health disparities. We used a rapid assessment response and evaluation (RARE) to launch a program of participatory action research focused on health disparities in an urban, disadvantaged Black community serviced by a major south Florida health center. We formed partnerships with community members, identified local health disparities, and guided interventions targeting health disparities. We describe the RARE structure used to triangulate data sources and guide intervention plans as well as findings and conclusions drawn from scientific literature and epidemiological, historic, planning, clinical, and ethnographic data. Disenfranchisement and socioeconomic deprivation emerged as the principal determinants of local health disparities and the most appropriate targets for intervention.

### **Mortality from Leading Causes by Education and Race in the United States, 2001**

*American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Vol. 34, No. 1, January 2008*

Background: Low educational attainment is a marker of socioeconomic status that correlates strongly with higher death rates from many conditions. No previous studies have analyzed national data to measure the number of deaths associated with lower education among working-aged adults (25–64 years) by race or ethnicity. Furthermore, no previous studies have examined comprehensively the relationship of education to cause-specific and all-cause mortality in the three largest racial or ethnic groups in the United States using national data.

Conclusions: Potentially avoidable factors associated with lower educational status account for almost half of all deaths among working-aged adults in the U.S.; these deaths are not confined to any single racial or ethnic group. These findings highlight the need for greater attention to social determinants of health.

### **Relationship Between Body Mass Index and Medical Care Expenditures for North Carolina Adolescents Enrolled in Medicaid in 2004**

*Preventing Chronic Disease, Vol. 5, No. 1, January 2008*

Many studies document that overweight and obese adults have substantially higher medical care expenditures than do adults of normal weight, but comparable data for children or adolescents are few. This study examines patterns of expenditure for medical care and use of medical care services among a sample of North Carolina adolescents enrolled in Medicaid, stratified by body mass index categories.

### **Uptake of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Among Children in the 1998–2002 United States Birth Cohorts**

*American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Vol. 34, No. 1, January 2008*

Background: Routine childhood immunization with pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCV7s) began in 2000 in the United States. Despite vaccine shortages, reductions in invasive pneumococcal disease occurred rapidly during 2000–2002. Age-appropriate PCV7 coverage was estimated and characteristics associated with undervaccination were identified for children in the 1998–2002 birth cohorts.

Conclusions: The dramatic reductions in pneumococcal-related diseases from direct and indirect vaccine effects occurred when few children had received the recommended complete vaccine schedule, and there were substantial racial and socioeconomic disparities in coverage.

[Index](#)

## Publications - Inside this Issue

### Advances

*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, December 2007*

<http://www.rwjf.org/publications/newsletterlist.jsp>

- RWJF Grant to the AARP Foundation Launches Center to Address Nursing Shortage
- Significant Progress in Nation's Public Health Preparedness, But Critical Gaps Persist
- 2007: The Year in Research
- States Spend Less Than Half the Minimum Recommended by CDC for Tobacco Prevention
- Study Reveals Seriousness of Adolescent Overweight on Future Adult Coronary Heart Disease
- Policy Briefs Offer Insight Into Fighting Antibiotic Resistance
- New Personal Health Record Approaches Require New Views of Privacy and Related Policies
- Evaluating the Covering Kids & Families® Program
- Commentary: Benefiting Patients Through Health Research
- No Resting on Laurels for RWJF.org

### Elaborations

*Department of Health, November/December 2007*

[http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/fsl/lqa\\_newsletters.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/fsl/lqa_newsletters.htm)

- Proficiency Testing - Time to Enroll for 2008
- Tips for Proficiency Testing Success
- Tips for Shipping Infectious Substances: What is a Primary Container?
- Venipuncture Techniques Training Course
- Approved PT Providers

### EpiLog

*Public Health Seattle & King County, Vol. 47, No. 12, December 2007*

<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/epilog/index.htm>

- Wound Botulism Case in King County
- Puzzler of the Month
- CDC Training: Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases
- Influenza Monthly Update

### EpiTrends

*Department of Health, Vol. 12, No. 12, December 2007*

- Prion Diseases: Adapting and Collaborating
- Annual Communicable Disease Report, 2006
- Foodborne Illness
- West Nile Virus
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Pertussis
- Mumps
- Cryptococcus gattii
- Notifiable Conditions Surveillance

### The Nation's Health

*American Public Health Association*

<http://www.apha.org/publications/tnh/>

## **NewsBrief**

*National Association of Local Boards of Health*

<http://www.nalboh.org/publications/newsbrief/newsbrief.htm>

## **State Health Notes**

*Forum for State Health Policy Leadership*

Vol. 28, Issue 505, December 10, 2007

### **State News**

- Issues for 2008: An interview with lawmakers

### **Highlights**

- TN expands premium support for small businesses...The latest MRSA numbers...Medicaid expenditures on antipsychotic drugs skyrocket...New report on children with special health-care needs

### **Graphically Speaking**

- The seven most common chronic diseases cost the U.S. economy more than \$1 trillion a year. If gains are not made in prevention and primary care, that cost could balloon to nearly \$6 trillion by the middle of the century, according to a new report.

## **Thrive!**

*Washington Health Foundation*

<http://www.whf.org/News/ThriveMagazine.aspx>

## **WSMA Reports**

*Washington State Medical Association*

## **Zoonotic Disease Newsletter**

*Washington State Department of Health, December 2007*

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/zdnewsletter.html>

- Flood kills animals, prompting disposal response
- Rule revision for zoonotic diseases
- Pet related infections
- Scorpion toxin makes fungus deadly to insect pests
- Journal articles from Emerging Infectious Diseases

--Susceptibility of Canada geese to hi-path avian influenza virus (H5N1)

--Emergence of MRSA of animal origin in humans

--Swine workers and swine influenza virus infections

--Crow deaths caused by West Nile virus during winter

--Host-feeding patters of Culex mosquitoes in relation to trap habitat

--and more...

- West Nile virus activity in the northwest

## [Index](#)